



**LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES**

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2024**

**5:30 P.M.**

**NORTH VALLEYS LIBRARY 1075 North Hills Boulevard, Suite 340, Reno, NV 89506**

**Library Trustees:**

**Ann Silver, Chair**

**Tami Ruf, Vice-Chair**

**Gianna Jacks, Trustee**

**Lea Moser, Trustee (arrived at 6:47pm)**

**Marie Rodriguez, Trustee**

0.) Salute to the Flag – Led by Marie Rodriguez, Trustee

1.) Roll Call – [Non-Action Item]

Present: Trustee Jacks, Trustee Rodriguez, Trustee Ruf, Chair Silver, Noted by Chair Silver that Leah Moser was not present at the time of roll call. Trustee Moser was present beginning at 6:47 pm.

2.) Public Comment –Two-minute Time Limit Per Person [ Non-Action Item] The Board may not discuss or take action on any matter raised under this public comment section until it has been specifically included on an agenda.

1. Louise Souffront: Spoke in favor of the library and its resources, felt that the wording of ballot issue was confusing to voters.
2. Ursula Burnett: Asked for clarification of her comments from the last meeting. Stated that she felt that wording on the ballot was fine, and that representation was at issue for the failure of the ballot issue.
3. Cheryl Hobensack: Spoke in support of libraries and her long time use and love of library resources, expressed concern that a library board member publicly stated that they did not want the renewal to pass.
4. Willie Puchert: Spoke in support of recent Author program at the libraries, felt the ballot issue did not pass due to misinformation and library board members who spoke against it publicly.

5. Drew Ribar: Stated that wording on ballot issue was responsible for issue failing, and that he voted no on the issue, indicated that he was bringing a lawsuit concerning his library suspension but encouraged others to speak in favor of library funding.
6. Gail Townsend: Asked for the 3-minute limit for public speaking to be reinstated, spoke about future library funding and encouraged board members to be advocates for restoring the library funding, expressed concern about future cuts to library programs and services.
7. Jane Burnham: Expressed her long-time use of the libraries, complimented library staff and that she felt the measure was poorly written.
8. Candace Powell: Thanked library staff and trustees for the work they do, shared her concern about possible cuts to library programs and services, credits library staff (SO library staff) for her child's success at school.
9. Alanna Fitzgerald: Expressed that she hopes drama is over and that board will support library funding for everyone, gave donation to library and encouraged others to do so.
10. Sandee Tibbett: Wants 3 minutes back to public comment, quoted recent media coverage, questioned budget numbers and salaries.
11. Tara de Queinoz: Presented literature from a political party as disinformation and highlighted a list of positive library services.
12. Cate Salim: Continued exhaustive list of library accomplishments and positive actions of the library on the community including statistics and an award issued this year for innovation.
13. Sasha McLaughlin: Quoted fiduciary responsibilities of Library Boards of Trustees, emphasized board members advocating for libraries and library funding.
14. Jackie Shelton: Expressed her long-time love of libraries and emphasized her local use of libraries as a hub for people to use the library for a variety of purposes, was shocked at the failure of WC-1 and hopes the library funding is restored.
15. Naseem Jamnia: Expressed disappointment for failure of WC-1, gave library love cards for staff, begged board to work towards restoring library funding and spoke about library mistreatment by members of the public.
16. Nathan Brown: Spoke to comments from October speakers who wanted to remove/ban books and to those who spoke against the LGBTQ community, thanked library staff for their work with the community.
17. John Wilson: Stated that he understood the ballot issue and asked library board to get involved with commissioners about library funding was concerned that trespassed patrons were present at this meeting.

18. Trista Gomez: Spoke about WC1 and her family use of the library and no longer takes her younger kids to the library due to safety concerns, asked the board to address library issues and make personnel changes before pursuing funding.
19. Alan Munson: Library Card holder, voted no on WC1, complimented libraries but criticized “some” programs stated that the library should have some Christian programs, criticized evolution being taught in schools.
20. Rosalind Weintraub: Long time library user who stated that her whole family uses the library, disappointed in failure of WC1 and asked board to help libraries.
21. Sam Tower: Supports library resources for everyone.
22. Cayden Maletsky: 17 yr old not able to vote yet and supports library funding, complimented staff and library resources, asked board to keep library funding.
23. Jose Herrera: A parent whose family homeschools and uses the library, mentioned ranking of 46<sup>th</sup> in nation for education asked for continued library funding.
24. ONLINE – Nevada Patriot: Bruce Parks: Spoke about language on ballot for WC1 and that WC1 was a “slush fund” for the library, mentioned lack of addressing library presenters’ policy and requested that to be agendized.
25. ONLINE - Stronghold Schools: Reva Crump: Noted NRS statute and board bylaw rules, 2D1, about virtual meetings via Zoom, suggested agendizing this for discussion as well as library budget, also criticized board minutes concerning public comments and that Director Scott was getting messages during board meeting.
26. ONLINE – Janet Butcher: Commented about WC1 “sunset” language and discussed votes on the issue, talked about job services outside of the library.
27. Helen Bansen – Staff member shared library program to support funding of libraries for children’s program (paper hearts).

3) Board Comment [Non-Action Item] – Limited to Announcements, Strategic Plan Activity, Updates or Issues Proposed for Future Agendas and/or Workshops

Vice-Chair Ruf- Wanted to thank voters who supported WC1, Director Scott and library staff for their efforts to pass the issue. Encouraged everyone to donate to the library and email all 5 commissioners to support the funding for the library.

Trustee Jacks – Thanked the public for coming to the meeting including Zoom commenters, stated that she is accessible to hear public thoughts as well as if you “work” at the library and stated that she advocates for the library 24 hours a day. Will look to online platforms and other sources to get to know the community, [gjacks@washoecounty.org](mailto:gjacks@washoecounty.org) [.gov], stated that board members don’t get to take vacations and to contact the board about the next meeting and looks forward to discussing WC1 when it is properly agendized. Called for a discussion of WC1 be agendized at December Library Board meeting along with Chair Jacks.

Trustee Rodriguez – Expressed support for libraries and staff, mentioned support of downtown local author event, expressed support to endorse library funding be restored and will be visiting with staff and commissioners.

Chair Silver – Asked to return books to speaker who claimed books were no in collection, but are in the library collection, spoke about WC1 and board support of this measure, stated that the board is in support of libraries. Noted that Trustee Mosier arrived, spoke about board member attendance.

Trustee Moser – Thanked libraries for their work to pass WC1, supported WC1, knocked on over 10,000 doors to get this passed, would like to review in the future to ensure it passes.

#### 4) Approval of Meeting Minutes a) Approval of Minutes from the Library Board Meeting of October 16,2024 [For Possible Action]

Trustee Jacks – Names are still being spelled incorrectly. Asked for more info on 7B.

Public Comment:

- 1.) Drew Ribar: Complained that his comments and others were not properly recorded, requested that his comments be recorded to reflect his 2-minute statements.
- 2.) ONLINE – Riva Crump: Criticized the copy of her comments being recorded in the record.
- 3.) Ursula Burnett – Criticized summary of comments in the minutes. Mentioned comments that she wanted corrected.
- 4.) Cate Salim – Clarified what minutes of a meeting vs transcription and noted each meeting video is recorded online.

Trustee Moser made a motion to approve the minutes

Trustee Rodriguez seconded the motion to approve the minutes.

Chair Silver stated that it is approved with any typos corrected and mentioned that if commenters wanted their comments recorded verbatim, that they need to provide a copy to Director Scott who will attach them to the minutes.

Motion passes with a unanimous vote.

#### 5) Old Business [Non-Action Item]

None

#### 6) New Business

a) Review and Approve: Library Meeting Room Policy [For Possible Action]

Discussion by the board about revisions to the meeting room policy with Corinne Dickman available for questions.

Public Comment:

- 1.) ONLINE – Reva Crump: Spoke about her concerns about the Library Meeting Room Policy and asked for clarification.
- 2.) ONLINE – Bruce Parks: Suggested clarification of policy changes based on NV legislation process.

Chair Silver clarified that a policy is not a law.

Trustee Ruf Made a motion to approve the Library Meeting Room policy with revisions.

Trustee Moser seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

b) Review and Approve: Library Conduct Policy [For Possible Action]

Discussion by the board about revisions to the Library Code of Conduct policy with Corinne Dickman available for questions.

Public Comment:

- 1.) Drew Ribar: Mentioned his case law references in his lawsuit against the library, asked for clarification between terms policy and regulation and talked about his suspension from the libraries.
- 2.) ONLINE - Janet Butcher: Said that timer for comments is “off,” asked for clarification on #3 and #12 of Library Conduct Policy.
- 3.) ONLINE – Reva Crump: Offered suggestions for specific wording on Library Conduct Policy.
- 4.) ONLINE – Bruce Parks: Speaking for Valerie Fiannaca, made suggestions for working and compliance with Library Conduct Policy.
- 5.) Gail Townsend: Shared a story about retail experience where scripion cards fell out of item and she returned item.

Vice-Chair Ruf made a motion to approve the Library Conduct policy with revisions discussed.

Chair Silver seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

c) Review and Approve: Library Suspension Policy [For Possible Action]

Discussion by the board about revisions to the Library Suspension policy with Corinne Dickman available for questions.

Public Comment:

- 1.) ONLINE – Valerie Fiannaca: Criticized suspension policy and revisions proposed.
- 2.) ONLINE – Bruce Parks: Expressed concern about leaving policy enforcement to library staff, stated that lawsuits will follow.
- 3.) ONLINE – Janet Butcher: Criticized leaving policy decisions to Director Scott.
- 4.) ONLINE – Val White: Disagrees with revisions to suspension policy, accused library of not being able to be unbiased against conservatives, expressed disgust for library board actions.
- 5.) ONLINE – Reva Crump: Disagrees with proposed revisions to policy citing no time limits or notifications, criticized board.
- 6.) Cate Salim: Made suggested changes to policy for revisions, asked for clarification if someone violates suspension.
- 7.) Tara de Queinos: Expressed appreciation for the board recognizing staff expertise, read from article on library staff stress.
- 8.) Drew Ribar: Criticized library board accusing them of not following constitution.
- 9.) Candice Powell: Spoke on behalf of those who have never been suspended and about respect of librarians and their expertise as listed in their job descriptions.
- 10.) Sandee Tibbett: Spoke in opposition to her suspension and criticized the board for not wanting to hear appeals moving forward claims her rights were violated.

Trustee Moser made a motion to approve the Library Conduct policy with revisions discussed.

Trustee Rodriguez seconded the motion.

Motion passed by a vote of 4 to 1, with Trustee Jacks voting down the motion.

d) Review and Approve Adjusted Holiday Closures: close Thursday December 12 for library staff day and Close at 4pm on Wednesday November 27th [For Possible Action]

Discussion to provide information about Staff Day where all libraries are closed for staff training on December 12<sup>th</sup> and to clarify the holiday closure updates.

Vice Chair Ruf made a motion to approve library closures for Staff Day and Holidays.

Public Comment:

NONE

Trustee Rodriguez seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

## 7) Reports

### a) Library Director Update by Director Jeff Scott [Non-Action Item]

Director Scott gave an update on library news including an overview of the WC1 initiative including mentioning community support and options for library funding from the commissioners. Director Scott will be submitting the budget and possible cuts to the commissioners and to the board at a future Library Board meeting.

Vice-Chair Ruf asked about donations and how those would be best to get to the branches, which can be dropped at each library.

### b) North Valleys Library Presentation by Library Branch Manager Jonnica Bowen [NonAction Item]

The presentation was given by librarians Pam Larsen and Carly Hume which included an update on the book mobile routes and services, and recent programs and resources from North Valleys library.

Chair Silver requested library reports be moved up on subsequent agendas, Director Scott agreed to do so.

8) Staff Announcements [Non-Action Item] No discussion or action may be taken upon any matter raised under this comment section until the matter has been specifically included on an agenda.

1.) Julie Ullman: Commented that Gianna Jacks email is actually [gjacks@washoecounty.gov](mailto:gjacks@washoecounty.gov) , not .org and offered suggestions to help access emails.

Trustee Rodriguez commented that her email is working, which is [MLrodriquez@washoecounty.gove](mailto:MLrodriquez@washoecounty.gove) emphasizing the first initials are ML in her email.

## 9) Adjournment

9:47 PM by Chair Silver